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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 44 VOLUME 14

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■ **NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERING:** Residents bring forward issues and opportunities for Port Colborne's east side

Residents share passion for Port neighbourhood

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A Neighbourhood Gathering Saturday brought together people with a passion to move the city's east side forward. see EAST SIDE | A3

See Inside:
INSERTS
Full Distribution

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homes

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MEAT SHOP



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Mary Anne Feagan, Niagara Prosperity Initiative community developer for prosperity projects in Port Colborne and manager of Port Cares Reach Out Centre, writes down an idea for one of the participants in a neighbourhood gathering last Saturday at the French Golden Age Club. The day-long event was funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative and allowed residents to bring ideas forward on how they want the east side of the city to grow in the future.

Focus on the future

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Residents of Port Colborne's east side were loud and clear in what they wanted see happen with their community in the future.

For one thing, they wanted people to stop using the name "Lidville" to describe one section of the city and wanted to see that name, which is sprayed on the side of the old train bridge, covered up immediately. They also wanted to see a new name brought forward, something like East Village or Upper Beaches.

They had more than a dozen other ideas to help the community, which were all brought forward Saturday during a Neighbourhood Gathering held at the French Golden Age Club and funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative. see PROSPERITY | A2

Thank You!

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the residents of Port Colborne for allowing me to once again represent you as your Mayor. I look forward to leading a team that will move our Community forward.

Mayor Vance Badaway



Together, We Will Get it Done. Together, We Will Break New Ground.

6454243

■ PROSPERITY

Residents want to see a rebirth of Port's East Side neighbourhood

FROM PAGE A1

The day-long event saw moderator Angela Carter lead 50 residents through an idea session, where people could get up and write down an idea for change in the community and voice it in front of the others. Once all of the ideas were brought forward, breakout sessions were held to discuss some common themes among all the ideas.

Other ideas brought up included making Nickel Beach more accessible, taking care of standard housing, fixing roads and sidewalks, having a medical clinic and more doctors' offices, increasing mental health services, getting rid of drug dealers, more jobs for youth and treating both sides of Port Colborne equally.

During one of the breakout sessions, a group of residents, including newly elected Ward 2 Councillor, Angie Desmarais and Mayor Vane Badaway, brainstormed ideas about changing the name of the east side and the stigma attached to the area.

Removing the graffiti from the train bridge, as well as from other areas of neighbourhoods, was one of the first things a resident brought up.

A few residents said the name one likes to hear the name Lidsville be used to describe one area of the east side.

Alternative names were suggested, such as East Village or Upper Beaches, and a renaming contest was even brought up. There was even talk of coming up with buttons for people to wear proclaiming their pride for

the east side.

Property standards was also an issue.

One couple said they didn't want to put much money into improving their home because they were worried they wouldn't get anything out of it if they tried to sell.

They said the condition of neighbouring properties wasn't the greatest and might be a detriment to theirs. They added that they had no desire to move from the east side, because they liked where they lived and liked the community.

"Once we started to fix up our home, we found others in the neighbourhood started to fix up theirs," Desmarais said in response to the couple.

Desmarais and the others agreed that making sure property standards were upheld was a good start to help beautifying the city's east side.

Badaway responded to the group and said that the city will start enforcing property standards across Port Colborne and going after absentee landlords.

The group said fixing up publicly-owned lands first was a good start to beautifying the area.

Before the breakout session ended, those residents who took part in it decided that meetings were needed at least twice a month to make sure things kept moving forward. Their first meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Port Cares Beach Out Centre on Nickel St., where some of the ideas from the breakout session will be discussed.

Mary Anne Feagan, the



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Ward 2 Councillor Yvon Doucet presents an idea during a neighbourhood gathering last Saturday at the French Golden Age Club. The day-long event was funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative and allowed residents to bring ideas forward on how they want the east side of the city to grow in the future.

community developer for prosperity projects in Port Colborne and manager of Port Cares Beach Out Centre, was "really excited" about the turnout on Saturday.

Even though the event was for residents to come and talk about the community, she was glad to see Port Colborne city councillors come out and take part as well. In addition to Badaway and Desmarais, Councillors Ron Bodner, Barb Butter, Yvon Doucet and Dave Elliott were also in attendance, listening to what the residents had to say.

Feagan said such groups as Port Cares, Leadership Niagara, Port Colborne-Wainfleet Community Living and social workers also came out.

"We had a really good cross-section of the commu-

nity come out."

She said as the day wrapped up each participant would be given a number of dots to use.

"They'll put a dot on whatever issue they feel is most important to move forward with in the community."

Feagan said a report will be together from the day and sent to all those that participated. She said at the community meeting on Nov. 17, the group will look at some of things that can be done immediately, such as talking with Niagara Regional Police about what to do about drug dealers in the area.

"We could have someone come in and talk about property standards and get some education on that and other pieces."

Feagan said the upcoming

meeting could also be used by the community to set priorities as to what it would like to see done first and then

look at long term goals as well.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

East side residents suggested making this old baseball field on Rodney St. into a leash-free dog park during a neighbourhood gathering last Saturday at the French Golden Age Club. The day-long event was funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative and allowed residents to bring ideas forward on how they want the east side of the city to grow in the future.

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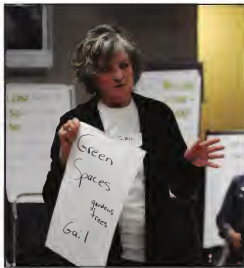
portraits

■ EAST SIDE



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

At left, Suzie Rankin presents her idea on finding a new name for the city's east side during a neighbourhood gathering last Saturday at the French Golden Age Club. The day-long event was funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative and allowed residents to bring ideas forward on how they want the east side of the city to grow in the future. Centre, Mayor Vance Badaway talks with residents about the city's east side. At right, Gail Stuart presents her idea on having more green space on the city's east side.



Residents offer say on how they want their community to look

FROM PAGE A1

"You're here because you want to improve the neighbourhood and work together to create a neighbourhood you want. Today, you're going to do that," moderator Angela Carter said.

The day-long event, held at the French Golden Age Club and funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative, saw Carter lead 50 residents through an idea session, where people could get up and write down an idea for change in the community and voice it in front of the others. Once all of the ideas were brought forward, breakout sessions were held to discuss some common themes among all the ideas.

She said when the day was over, a report would be put together capturing all of the thoughts and ideas from the day. Ideas such as making Nickel Beach more accessible, finding a new name for an area known as "Lidsville," taking care of substandard housing, fixing roads and sidewalks, having a medical clinic and more doctors' offices, increasing mental health services, getting rid of

drug dealers, more jobs for youth and treating both sides Port Colborne equally.

"We don't want today to end today, we want this to be a living, breathing process and keep it going."

Carter said it was a very diverse crowd, with a mix of residents, politicians and service groups, which was exactly what organizers were hoping to see.

"We'll have a lot of ideas here and there are a lot of things we can do collectively. We want to focus on the passion you have, the passion for the east side."

Carter said there are a couple of things people can do with their passion. One is to move things forward with other people. The other is to complain about the neighbourhood, but not do anything to

make changes.

"We want to focus passion in a positive, energetic way," Carter explained the day would involve what's called "open-space technology," basically a circle of people. Open-space technology started to be used worldwide in 1985, and Carter said it was used in 1999 for a community forum held by Port Carter.

"We had the same diverse

group of people and ideas from that meeting brought a number of programs and services to Port Carter, things like a community bus, a soup kitchen and so much more," Carter, a former executive director of the agency, said. She asked participants to think of opportunities and ideas to help change the east side of the city, things they'd like to move forward with in the future.

Before people came forward with their ideas, Carter said there were four principles to open-space technology: when it starts is the right time; whoever comes are the right people; whatever happens in the only thing that could have happened; and when it's over, it's over.

Whatever a person came up with, they had to write it down and then share it with everyone else. Those ideas were put on a board and the person that brought it up would lead a breakout session to talk about it and related ideas.

While all ideas and opportunities were encouraged, there was only time enough to bring about 15 together for the day.

Carter said whatever ideas

might be leftover could be future items to be discussed.

Mayor Vance Badaway came to listen to those ideas and opportunities.

"I want to hear loud and clear what the people have to say and what they feel," Badaway said.

Also in attendance were councillors Angles Desmarais, Yvon Doucet, Dave Elliott, Barb Butters and Ron Bodner and fire Chief Tom Carwright.

The mayor said some of the ideas that he heard were part of a community improvement plan being developed for Port Colborne's east side.

He wanted to hear what could be plugged into existing programming, what might be needed for future budgeting by the city and what people feel is really needed for the east side.

"The entire community needs to look at what this area needs and work as a community to get it done."

He said some of the ideas he was hearing could be implemented right away and action plans could be developed around many of the others.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

This view shows Louis St. on the east side of Port Colborne. East side residents want to see their side of the city move forward and talked about improving the area at a neighbourhood gathering last Saturday at the French Golden Age Club.

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ourview

Passion for east side

Residents showed the passion they have for the east side of the city on Saturday during a Neighbourhood Gathering.

The day-long event, funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative, saw 50 residents, service groups and politicians turn out to talk about the area's future.

It was a chance for people to express what future they wanted and what opportunities they saw for the area.

Some of what came up that day included: making Nickel Beach more accessible, taking care of substandard housing, fixing roads and sidewalks, having a medical clinic and more doctors' offices, increasing mental health services, getting rid of drug dealers, more jobs for youth and treating both sides of the city equally.

While some of the ideas have relatively easy and quick solutions, others might take time and more planning. All of the ideas, no matter big or small, are what people on the east side would like to see happen in their community.

And all should be given serious consideration by politicians and others.

It was good politicians, especially the recently-elected, from all areas of the city came out and heard what people had to say.

It will give them a good feel for what direction they need to head in for the east side in the future.

One thing that came out of the event was the fact that residents wanted the name of the area to change. They wanted something like East Village and wanted the Lidsville name on the train bridge covered up and for that name not to be used to describe a certain area of the east side.

Lidsville, a name that has an unclear origin, is used in a derogatory way to describe everything south of the train tracks, between the canal and Vale. It's a name residents do not like at all and is a name that should be dropped.

Calling the area East Village, or Upper Beaches as suggested by Mayor Vance Badawey, is fine, but the area will still be the east side of Port Colborne. The fact the city is separated by the canal makes east side a geographic reference, not a derogatory one.

But whatever name is used in the end, we hope ideas residents came up with are given serious consideration and are acted upon.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

JEVEA SAM
Morgan's Point
and Forks Road East United Churches

Three startling events happened in quick succession as my wife and I were relaxing in the shade of a beach umbrella in Ocean City, New Jersey this August.

The first was the appearance of a crouching thirty-something woman with a bright smile who calmly trespassed into our sacred space.

The second was the string of words she uttered in a language that was totally incomprehensible.

The third was the reason she dared to do the first two.

When she saw the puzzled look on our faces that conveyed the message, "We do not have the foggiest idea of what you just said," she promptly replied: "Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you understood Hindi. I just asked how you were doing."

We informed her that our mother tongue was Tamil, which is a South Indian language, whereas Hindi is predominantly spoken in the northern part of India. She informed us that she had heard of the Tamil language, but had chosen to learn Hindi.

Needless to say, we were quite curious to know why she, a North American,

readers' views

Silenced by the Region

I could not believe my eyes when I read the report where Niagara regional council voted to impose a gag on members of the audience at its meetings.

None of us asked to have regional government to start with and now we don't even have the right to question those at a meetings in regards to issues such as Niagara Health System, spending, higher taxes and blow-out wages.

Are we the "gillgaloots" supposed to put up with this form of government? It should be taken out of existence.

With it gone we could return to our roots and civilize, lower taxes to where they should respectfully be and once rid of the top brass, we would save millions of dollars.

Wm. R. Thompson
Port Colborne

Thanks

We would like to thank all our patrons and donors who supported the University Women Club's 40th annual

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Copyright in letters and other material submitted to the publisher and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the Publisher and its licensees may freely reproduce them in print, electronic or other form.

Started by a stranger on the beach

had taken the time and effort to learn an Indian language and in particular, Hindi.

She explained that it was as a result of her involvement in the church.

This response intrigued us even more, as we have been involved in church all our lives and had never been encouraged to learn another language!

She unravelled the mystery by telling us that her church was planning to do some mission work in North India. Of course, it would be advantageous to speak the language rather than rely on an interpreter. Hence the decision to learn Hindi—using Rosetta Stone's training materials and a free website as resources.

When my wife informed her that we were Christians, and I was a pastor, her face lit up. She knew we could relate to her story.

We learned that she was born and raised in Puerto Rico, but has been living in New Jersey for a number of years now. The Hispanic church that she attends hosted a pastor of Indian origin from the West Coast of U.S. a few years back. The entire church was deeply touched by his ministry among them. Her pastor and other leaders began to experience a deep passion for sharing their faith with Indian people. Not only were they planning outreaches

in India, but also wanted to be able to communicate with people in their neighbourhood, many of whom had been born in India.

She experienced such a personal sense of call to this mission that the next logical step was to learn the language of the people among whom she desired to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. She made the decision to study Hindi and here she was...staring! us.

Sujanya and I couldn't help but applaud the depth of her conviction and the strength of her commitment. She was a single mother raising three children on her own.

It was not as though she had all the time in the world to study a new language...but it was so important to her that she made the time to do what she needed to do to fulfill her newfound calling.

I must also admit that we were a bit ashamed at our level of passion to carry out Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples of the nations." It was nowhere close to hers. We wondered out aloud whether we would be prepared to put our kind of effort in answering the call.

"Lord, have mercy," was the first prayer we uttered, followed by "Thank you, Lord, for standing with us through a stranger on the beach."

book sale.

Once again with your generosity we have successfully reached our goal.

Special thanks go to Arthur Gill at the Niagara Regional Exhibition grounds, the Port Colborne air cadets, the students and staff from The Port High special needs program, and to all our families and friends for their help.

Proceeds from the book sale are used to award local high school scholarships to eight young women who will be continuing their studies at a university this year. In addition, charitable donations are made to local organizations for special projects.

Margie Gaylor, Margaret Kleinsmith and Betty Jeff
Book Sale Co-ordinators, CFJW Welland & District

Lions projects well supported

The Welland Lions would like to thank the residents of Welland for their generous support. Recent events

such as the cash draw, food drive and the current turkey raffle continue to be well received and supported by our residents.

The cash draw held in September raised \$1,700 for Lions community projects. Winners were: First of \$1,000 was Laura Shyke of Welland; second of \$400 was David Moody of Louthams; and third of \$300 was Kim Shively of Port Colborne.

The recent food drive generously supported by the residents saw approximately 900 kg of food donated, with another \$860 in cash donations.

This food and funding has been distributed between the food banks of Port Colborne, Welland and Dunnville in support of Welland's residents.

We are currently selling tickets for our annual turkey draw and these can be obtained from any Welland Lions member.

For further information, please contact me at 288-820-6163.

Lion George DeLuys
Club Secretary, Welland Lions Club

Football photography is more than just a hobby



Supplied photo

Lakeshore Gators Seniors Keaton Spratt (#22) and ball carrier Nicky Boulard (#32) team up in a recent play captured by Lakeshore Gators' "unofficial official" photographer Pam Koudijs.

FROM PAGE A5

She even shot the Vanier Cup, Canada's championship for university football, two years ago when Zach's Mustangs made it to the show. Alas, the Mustangs lost 44-21 to Laval.

Lest you think photography is some part-time hobby for Pam, it's not.

She went back to college in 2003 and over three years of part-time studies under renowned Niagara photographer Archie Hood, received her Certification in Photography from Niagara College in December, 2006.

She is currently working toward her professional status with the Professional Photographers of Canada (PPOC) with Robert Nowell as her mentor. Working with the PPOC's Hamilton-Niagara branch, the process involves Pam handing in photos and getting them critiqued in order to attain her pro status.

"I'll be getting my membership with the PPOC by the end of the year," she explains. Apart from her sports photography, Pam also shoots weddings and does family portraits.

"I did seven weddings this year and I have three booked for next year."

I've known Pam since our boys were young and

she's always been an extraordinary individual, the kind whose glass is always half-full. I got to know her even better when our youngest was a Gator himself during his high school football career. She truly is like another mom to those boys.

When not shooting, Pam is an educational assistant at St. Therese Catholic School. And, as part of her duties in that role she is — what else? — the school photographer.

"Whatever events we have at the school, I bring my camera."

But back to the gridiron. Pam says when she's out there shooting, whether it's high school football, university football or the Vanier Cup itself, she's not awe-struck by the moment. She wouldn't have it to focus, so to speak, if she was.

"I'm just one of the guys on the sideline."

And she wouldn't have it any other way.

Check out Pam's website at photographybypamela.ca.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@cogeco.ca

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■ **REGION:** Mobile waste depot in town Nov. 20

Get rid of the hazardous waste laying around your home

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Niagara Region is hosting its final series of mobile household hazardous waste depots throughout November, including a stop in Port Colborne.

The depot at Humberstone Arena, 54 Westside Rd., is Saturday, Nov. 20, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This will be the final

depot until April.

Accepted items include: batteries, corrosive cleaners, pesticides and herbicides, gasoline and motor oil, solvents and thinners, pharmaceuticals, aerosol cans containing hazardous substances, liquid paint, fluorescent light tubes, barbecue propane tanks and syringes (in a puncture-proof container).

All materials must be well-

capped and either in their original containers or in a substitute container that is clearly labelled.

Oil must be delivered in sealed containers no larger than 20 litres each.

Empty paint cans with only a thin residual layer of paint, as well as empty aerosol cans, can now be placed in blue recycling boxes during regular collection.

Disposal depots have

proved to be popular across Niagara, said program manager Sheri Tait, noting 822,000 kg of waste was collected in 2009.

Last year, 204,000 litres of paint were collected, as well

as enough oil to equal more than 30,000 automotive oil changes, Tait said.

For more information, contact the waste management services info-line at 905-356-4141 or 1-800-584-5542.

SENIOR DRIVING



Supplied photo

More than 135 seniors took advantage of a senior motorist information session hosted by the Port Cares Volunteer Seniors in Action program. The day featured a variety of speakers who educated seniors on license renewal, the effects of medication on your system and road safety among others. NRP officer Craig Rudling speaks to the group at the Friends Over 55 Social Centre about road safety.

THANK YOU



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*I look forward to
representing you at the region*

David Barrick



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

The Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet seeks applications from Township residents who would be interested in being a member of any of the following committees:

- Committee of Adjustment/Fenceviewer/Property Standards Committee (5 positions available)
- Library Board (4 positions available)

Application forms are available on the Township's website (www.wainfleet.ca) or at the Municipal Office during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Completed application forms may be submitted to the Municipal Office by personal delivery, post, email, or fax to the attention of Mr. Scott Luey, Acting Clerk (contact information provided below) no later than 4:30p.m. on **Monday, November 15th, 2010.**

Scott Luey, Acting Clerk
Township of Wainfleet
P.O. Box 40
19M43 Highway 43
Wainfleet, Ontario, L0S 1V0
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■ **ANNIVERSARY:** Oskam Steel celebrates 40 years

Company is a leader in Port Colborne



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Sam Kingma, left, chairman and CEO of Empire Transportation Ltd., and Port Colborne city manager Bob Heil, right, talk with J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd. quality control supervisor John Smits about some of the work Oskam does, during an open house on Friday celebrating the company's 40th anniversary.

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Forty years ago Jack Oskam opened a 225-square-metre metal shop with three employees off of Elm St. Now the company that bears his name—J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd.—has 105 employees, has expanded

several times and deals with customers around the world, including Peru, Venezuela, China and Saudi Arabia.

This past Monday was the official anniversary of the company, but last Friday it threw open the doors to customers and suppliers so they could get a good look at its Port Colborne facility.

John Langerak, vice-president and general manager, and his son Kevin Langerak, plant manager, said the company has a worldwide base and deals with such customers as General Electric and Siemens.

"We also work with local companies like Casco, JBL (Jungbunzlauer) and Vale," said John.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce office manager Edith Wagner and president Mike Sloat talk with John Langerak, J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd. vice-president and general manager, during an open house on Friday celebrating the company's 40th anniversary.

Oskam makes power units for cogeneration plants, conveyors, hoppers, whatever a customer needs. It deals with the food processing industry, oil and gas industry and in the last 10 or so years, it has moved into the renewable energy sector.

"We're in wind energy, have built methane gas

recovery units and a corn oil extraction unit," Kevin said.

The two said the alternative energy field will continue to grow and complement the company's business.

The company has had steady growth over its 40-year history. Oskam last expanded in 2008, with a new 650-square-metre build-

ing built on to the existing shop and the purchase of a building across the street on Rosedale Ave.

During Friday's open house, a cogeneration unit sat ready to be shipped out to Venezuela. Last year, 12 cogeneration units alone were shipped to Saudi Arabia.

To do all of that work, John said the company has welders, millwrights, fabricators and pipe fitters.

Kevin said in his 40 years, Oskam has never had an outside salesperson; companies have come to it.

"It's always been word of mouth. We have good products, good quality and good employees."

Mayor Vance Badaway said Oskam is frequently talked about when it comes to economic development and attracting new businesses and industry to the city.

"Oskam is one of the first words out of our mouths. We let people know how strong our supply chain sector is here in Port Colborne."

"Oskam is a leader in the community when it comes to the industrial sector," he said.

"The company is front and center when it comes to clean energy manufacturing. It already works with companies like Siemens."

djohnson@wainfleettribune.ca

DENTURE CENTRE

SOFT LINER

Q. Recently I have noticed that my dentures have become loose and uncomfortable. What can I do?

If you have been feeling pain in your gums for sometime and wearing a denture hurts even though it has been meticulously adjusted, or if your denture is becoming increasingly loose and uncomfortable, it's time for a visit to see your dentist. Fortunately, there is an answer to solve these problems. I recommend a soft liner.

Q. What is a soft liner?

The permanent soft liner is a layer of soft material that is fitted to the surface of your denture and rests next to the oral tissues. The soft liner acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the hard plastic of the denture and the gum area. The soft base will not halt the resorption of your gum, whose shape and thickness are constantly changing, and the reason for your denture getting looser, but it will ensure that your denture provides continued comfort as time goes by.

Q. What are the advantages of a soft liner?

To name just a few reasons: • Great comfort. • With soft liners, many denture wearers report that they can chew food more comfortable and effectively.

• This will extend the health of your gum as well as ensure maximum adhesion.

Q. Is a soft liner right for me?

Permanent soft liner provides comfort and relief for individuals with: • Severely resorbed or flat gums that do not tolerate the stress of dentures • Chronic soreness

Things to think about with soft liners...

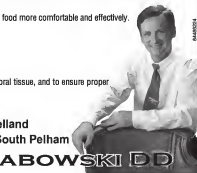
Soft liners requires regular follow-up visits with a Denturist to examine the fit of dentures, the health of your oral tissue, and to ensure proper oral hygiene and cleaning of the soft tissue lining.

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READ NOW WITH TAYLOR SWIFT



MARIANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Students in grades 2 and 3 at McKay Public School anxiously await their submitted questions to be asked during a live webcast with country music star Taylor Swift on Wednesday, Oct. 27. The live webcast, Read Now with Taylor Swift, was held as part of Scholastic's 90th anniversary Global Literacy Campaign and was hosted by actor Nick Cannon. Swift spoke about the importance of reading and answered questions selected from thousands submitted.

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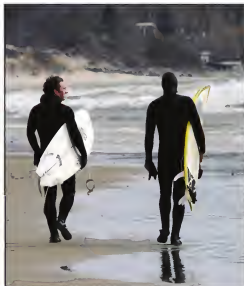


■ SURFING LAKE ERIE



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Perfect wind and wave conditions drew about two dozen surfers, kite surfers and wind surfers to Lake Erie last Saturday. Top left, a kite surfer heads out into the waters of Lake Erie, off Pleasant Beach. Bottom left, Matthew Thompson of St. Catharines rides a wave by the municipal boat launch in Crystal Beach. Bottom middle, a surfer makes her way out into the waves. Bottom right, Two surfers head down Pleasant Beach.



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■ **LEGAL ACTION:** Welland looks for legal opinion

Cities could sue LHIN: Toronto lawyer

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

TORONTO — A Toronto lawyer says there may be grounds for a Welland lawsuit against the Local Health Integration Network and the provincial government.

Welland city council passed a resolution instructing staff to get legal opinion about the potential for legal action against the LHIN and province in an effort to stop the implementation of changes to the delivery of local hospital services.

Port Colborne city council passed a similar resolution in August.

Toronto lawyer Eric Gillespie said the rules of the Law Society of Upper Canada prevent him from publicly discussing clients or even potential clients. But generally speaking, the lawyer who recently led a successful class-action lawsuit against Vale (Inco) said the legal

action the cities are considering has potential.

"We are familiar with the issue, and generally we believe that there may be grounds for some type of legal challenge to these kinds of decisions," he said, adding his law firm has already been contacted by groups from other communities regarding potential legal action to preserve health-care services.

Such a legal challenge, he said, could also mean at least a temporary end to the implementation of further changes to the delivery of hospital services, pending the outcome of litigation.

"That would be within the kind of relief that could be requested," Gillespie told InPort News.

Ward 2 Coun. Frank Campion, chair of Welland's health-care committee, said Gillespie's comment was the type of information he was hoping to hear. He said the city is contacting another

Toronto law firm, and he's anticipating receiving a report by next week.

From there, Campion said if the city gets "an affirmative response, which it sounds

like we might, then we take it to the next step... We'll get the ball rolling."

Because of city council's lame duck status, a final decision would have to be made

by the new city council after its sworn-in in December.

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway said his city's efforts to take legal action to preserve hospital

services began long before its council resolution was passed Aug. 23.

He said Port Colborne has been working on potential litigation for more than a year.

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■ **EXCITEMENT BUILDING:** Few days lost to weather

Jericho House nearing completion

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

WAINFLET — The excitement is building for Sister Jacque Keefe and Brother Bill Carrothers as the construction of Jericho House nears its completion and their dreams become a reality.

They have been fundraising and planning for years and they're about six weeks away from the completion of construction to the 1,300-square-metre facility on Rathfon Rd. in Wainflet, where local groups and organizations, business or church groups can take advantage of the facility for retreats or overnight stays.

In mid-December, Keefe and Carrothers will take over the facility, decorate and outfit it with beds, chairs, kitchen equipment and all the extra details and will welcome guests to the 6.6-hectare property for the first time in January.

"The weather has been perfect and very few days have been lost to the weather," Carrothers said.

Overnight retreats or events for adults, teens or



KAESHA FORAND
Staff Photo
Construction of Jericho House on Rathfon Rd. in Wainflet is nearing its completion, with about six weeks left.

children will be accommodated with two wings — one for men and one for women, with nine bedrooms in each wing — a supervisor's room and lounge area.

Each bedroom features an ensuite bathroom and bunk beds to sleep one to three people.

The bungalow-style retreat features a game room, great hall, dining room, conference area, offices, living quarters for Carrothers and Keefe and a chapel/meeting area.

"We want people to realize the versatility" of Jericho House, Keefe said, noting the facility is ecumenical, interfaith and welcomes people of all religions.

"We can facilitate retreats, conferences or workshops on leadership, ecology, life skills or staff days"

Carrothers was happy to receive calls from schools and community groups interested in renting the facility for events. A feasibility study also determined there was a need for a facility like Jericho House in Niagara.

"It's a phenomenal resource for people of the region, especially for youth for their personal growth and development. They come, do planning and self-evaluating and go back to their schools or churches to implement projects."

About \$2 million was raised through fundraising events and cash donations, while other companies provided in-kind donations to help with the construction of the \$2.5 million facility.

It replaces the current Jericho House facility on

Beatrice St. in Welland, which has eight bedrooms and offices.

Keefe's Franciscan Sisters are hoping to sell the Beatrice St. facility to a non-profit group.

"The design of the building is meant to be organic so it fits in with the landscape instead of dominating it," Carrothers said of the house, inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie style design.

Residential rates for Jericho house are \$19 for a day retreat from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with one meal and two snacks, \$50 for an overnight retreat with 4 meals, \$136 for a three-night retreat with 10 meals for youths.

Rates for adults are \$30 for a day retreat with a meal, extended day retreat from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., for \$40 and \$74 for an overnight retreat with 3 meals.

The website offers this information: "Jericho House is a youth leadership, justice and spirituality centre. We have welcomed Christians and seekers with retreats, conferences, and peer ministry workshops since 1988. Jericho house is ecumenical in the Catholic tradition."

For additional information, rates and to book the facility call 905-732-1868.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
The Port Colborne Thrift Shop donated \$750 to the Port Colborne-Wainflet Inter-Church food bank last week and wanted to remind people of the Port Colborne Lions Club annual food drive this weekend. Joan Cunningham, of the thrift shop, Marilyn Williams, of the food bank, Al Marr, treasurer of the thrift shop and Bill Cohoe, of the Lions Club, all hold on to the donation.

Food supplies dwindling

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It's getting close to that time of year when hundreds of Lions Club members and volunteers take to Port Colborne's streets for the annual food drive.

The door-to-door event takes place Saturday, Nov. 6, with 400 volunteers hoping to collect as much non-perishable food items as they can.

"We also accept cash and cheques donations," said Lions Club member Jason Hockley.

All of the food items are

sorted and boxed at Christian Life Assembly Church, 484 Barrick Rd., before being taken to Port Colborne-Wainflet Inter-Church Food Bank.

Hockley said people are welcome to volunteer to be canvassers, sorters, packers and drivers. All they have to do is show up at the church to register at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 6.

The drive comes just in time for the food bank, says its director Marilyn Williams. Williams says the shelves are getting pretty bare in areas.

"We're very low on some things, items for children's lunches like canned lunch meats, puddings and pasta."

She says there's no peanut butter, fruit juice, crackers, canned fruit or vegetables left on the shelves and cereal reserves are very low.

"We'll take anything people want to donate."

Some items given during the food drive, she says, do last a whole season. Things like soup, tuna and pasta can be around all year.

Williams says the food bank did receive some donations around Thanksgiving, but can always use more, even before the food drive.

If some items get too low, or are gone from the shelves, the food bank does call upon area churches to help fill the need.

The Inter-Church Food Bank is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until noon and is located at the Elgin St. entrance to Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne.

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■ QUICK LOOK: 2012 Ford Focus

Ford turns the Focus on the world

JOE DUARTE
QMI Agency

Early in 2011, Ford will open up the garage doors for its global Focus that will be sold in all world markets in four-door hatchback and wagon (versions we haven't got in North America since 2007), and four-door sedan.

North American Focus models get a new 2.0-litre direct injected variable valve timed four-cylinder engine that puts out 160 hp (up 20 from the current engine) and improves economy by 10%.

A five-speed manual transmission is expected to be the standard transmission, with a new six-speed automatic optional. In

keeping with the recent trend at Ford, the new Focus is packed with the latest technologies. Front and centre is the new MyFord system that owners can custom tailor to suit individual preferences. On the high-end series, most of the controls are handled through a touch-screen display. Sync is part of the deal, with the ability to control sound, ambience, navigation and communication devices by voice.

On the safety front, Focus gets a version of the Volvo City Safety system that uses sensors to determine if a frontal collision (at speeds below 30 km/h) is imminent and stops the car (by reducing throttle input and applying

brake force) if the driver doesn't take action. Other systems available include parking assist, lane departure, adaptive cruise control and blind spot detection.

All Focus models get a new Torque Vectoring Control system up front that distributes torque between the front wheels and helps reduce understeer, improve traction and produce better turn-in to enhance handling. The ST gets a lowered chassis and special suspension tuning.

Focus sedans and wagons are due to go into production in fall 2010 in Michigan, with a launch slated toward the end of 2010. The ST model is due for a 2012 launch.



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THANK YOU...

THE 2010 JOHN-MICHAEL MARTIN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our inaugural golf tournament, on September 11th, for John-Michael Martin was a huge success in every way possible. family, friends, weather, golf course... all contributed to a memorable and rewarding day. As a result, numerous donations were made to the John-Michael Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Port Colborne Festival of Arts, and the Blessed Families of Ontario (Burlington-Hamilton Chapter).

The day was one of relaxation. All who were present enjoyed the festivities with great friends and family. To the many individuals whose assistance and precious time devoted to this endeavor... we thank you so much! (Charly, Patty, Ashton, Lisa, Julie, Christina, Jimmy... to name a few)

Thank-you to ALL the generous donors... your contributions gave our prize ball the boost for our raffish. To the Red Hot Chili Pepper Band & Girls. So Calendars... thank you for your thoughtful sponsorship!

To Jessica and staff at the Whiskey N Golf course... you still out-did yourselves in the organization, hospitality, and cuisine department... Thank you so much for everything!

THANK YOU...

See you all next year...

Diane, John, Zachary & family

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ONIONS**
99¢ lb.

■ TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES: Program starts Friday

Give a living gift to help people in the Third World

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A \$20 bill can bring a lot of change.

That little green piece of paper is enough to stock a women's fishery in India — providing a sustainable source of income and nutrition for the workers' families.

For only \$8 more, a person in Republic of the Congo can be given access to daily medication from a hospital pharmacy.

During the holidays, Ten Thousand Villages is asking people to give health, empowerment, education and care to people halfway around the world.

Through the Living Gifts program, people can purchase items to improve the quality of life for someone they've never met, on behalf of someone they love.

Gifts range in price from \$20 to stock a fishery to \$350 to stock an entire farm with animals.

This is the seventh year the Port Colborne store has participated in the Living Gifts

program, which has grown to be a popular alternative for holiday shoppers.

"It's so worthwhile," said store manager Jane Nigh of the unconventional gifts.

"Though you're not benefiting materially, you're making a difference in the lives of so many people."

The program runs from Nov. 6 to Dec. 25, though the gifts are available upon special request throughout the year.

Ten Thousand Villages, 7 Clarence St., will host a celebration on Nov. 6 to launch the program, with visitors encouraged to attend and sample a variety of fair trade goods.

For an additional \$2, each Living Gift comes with a Ten Thousand Villages greeting card, ornament and information card describing the recipient the gift that's been given.

All Living Gifts are tax-deductible.

For more information on available Living Gifts, call the store at 905-684-6292 or visit www.tenthousandvillages.ca.



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**Act of Remembrance
Wreath Laying
Ceremony**

**Thursday,
November 11th
at 10:45 am
H.H. Knoll Park**